

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Matsumoto, Y. et al.

Serial No.: Herewith

Group Art Unit: TBD

Filed: April 30, 2001

Examiner: TBD

Title: METHOD FOR STARTING UP REACTOR AND REACTOR SYSTEM

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination and prior to the calculation of the filing fee, please amend this application as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 8, change “any of claims 1-7.” to -- claim 1 --.

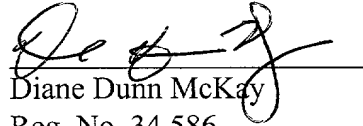
REMARKS

Claim 8 has been amended to cancel multiple dependencies. Attached is a clean copy of claim 8. Claims 1-14 are in this application.

Applicants believe that the claims would have been allowable as originally filed. Accordingly, applicants assert that no claims have been narrowed within the meaning of the Federal Circuit’s recent decision in *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kohyo Kabushiki Co.*, No. 95-1066, 2000 WL 1753646 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).

A prompt and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. It is believed that no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,


Diane Dunn McKay
Reg. No. 34,586
Attorney for Applicant

DATE: April 30, 2001

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Clean Copy of Claim

8. A method for the production of (meth)acrylic acid and/or (meth)acrolein, characterized by supplying a raw material gas to said reactor after the method for starting up the device set forth in claim 1.